

FBIS

DAILY REPORT

## MIDDLE EAST &amp; SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

4 SEPTEMBER 1985

## North African Affairs

*Algerian-Tunisian Cooperation* — Commenting on the results of talks between the Algerian and Tunisian chiefs of staff, a Tunisian source stated that bilateral military cooperation has begun to assume a "practical nature" in order to confront any development that may take place, KUNA reported.

*Egyptian View* — Any Libyan aggression against Tunisia would be Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi's "biggest mistake ever," Egyptian President Husni Mubarak stated in remarks reported by MENA following a 3 September meeting with a visiting Algerian youth delegation. Meanwhile, Egyptian Interior Minister Ahmad Rushdi denied that Egypt has massed troops on its border with Libya, the agency noted. Rushdi also revealed that over 30,000 Egyptians have returned from Libya since January, 10,585 of them having been expelled since 8 July.

*Further Al-Qadhafi Remarks* — Unity with Tunisia will remain "under consideration," Col al-Qadhafi stressed in a speech to officials reported by JANA. As for those Libyans abroad who have been sentenced to death by the Libyan authorities, Al-Qadhafi said this sentence is "still applicable, unless they repent and come back to Libya, the land of safety." Al-Qadhafi called on the people's congresses to review capital punishment, which he described as cruel and unsuitable for a society that respects human dignity, according to JANA.

*Moroccan Trial* — The Court of Appeal in Casablanca passed sentence against the group of saboteurs arrested while infiltrating from Algeria in July, MAP reported, noting that 14 people were sentenced to death, 9 in absentia, while the others received various prison terms.

## Israel

A curfew was imposed in Hebron's Casbah area after one Israeli soldier was killed and another was wounded in a knife attack, according to Jerusalem radio. Two local residents were injured by gunfire from other Israeli soldiers who fired at the attackers, the radio reported. A Palestinian military spokesman cited by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio said a Palestinian group carried out the "brave operation" against two "Zionist intelligence men." Reacting to the stabbings, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres said that at a time when Israel wants to strengthen peace, the PLO wants to exacerbate war, Jerusalem radio disclosed. He added that Israel will "coldly contemplate" adopting military and other means to tackle any wave of terrorism.

In another development, seven more residents of Judaea and Samaria were placed under administrative detention, Jerusalem radio announced.

## PLO-Palestinians

*Greece Bombing* — An unidentified caller told a local newspaper that the Black September organization claimed responsibility for a grenade attack on a hotel near Athens that injured 18 people, mostly British tourists, Athens radio reported. The attack was a warning to the Greek authorities to release a detained Palestinian, the radio added.

*Khalaf Remarks* — Reporting Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf's 2 September press conference in Tunis, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio cited his statement that "there is no glimmer of hope from any meeting with the United States," which is working to split the PLO and has stipulated conditions that no Palestinian leader can accept. The PLO radio's report of Khalaf's remarks on his Moscow visit did not mention his acknowledgement that the Soviet Union opposes the Jordanian-PLO agreement.

## Lebanon

An outbreak of fighting between Amal Movement and Palestinian gunmen in the Burj al-Barajinah area of southern Beirut left 5 people killed and 12 others wounded, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. Acknowledging the fighting, an Amal statement broadcast by Beirut radio accused "gunmen" of firing indiscriminately at houses in the area.

As for the continued closure of crossing points between the two halves of the capital, which has caused food shortages in the western sector, a Lebanese Forces official cited by Radio Free Lebanon explained that the closure is in response to the kidnapping of at least 70 people by the Amal Movement.

The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Organization, the pro-Syrian Ba'th group in Lebanon, claimed responsibility for another suicide car-bomb attack against an Army of Southern Lebanon (ASL) roadblock in the south early 3 September, Beirut radio reported. The bomber killed only himself in the attack, which occurred near Jazzin, according to ASL sources cited by AFP.

## GCC Ministerial Council

The GCC Ministerial Council reaffirmed its preparedness to undertake any action that will help end the Iran-Iraq war, according to a statement issued by the council and carried by SPA following the conclusion of its 16th session in Riyadh. The council also regretted Iran's "continued refusal" to respond to efforts made to end the conflict through negotiation and reconciliation. As for the current Arab situation, the council attached "special importance" to the tasks of the Arab committees formed at the Casablanca summit to solve problems among Arab countries.

At a press conference following the session, Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah stated that

any threat or attack against any Gulf state will be considered a threat and attack against all the GCC states, SPA reported.

#### **Iran**

Members of the government should not be offended if they are dismissed and other people are appointed to perform their duties, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni said in remarks to Cabinet members broadcast by Tehran radio. He stressed that the aim should be to serve and not to hold a certain post. Khomeyni said that while some people claim they could do better than current officeholders in top posts, most of these claims are "just talk and no action."

In a separate development, Madrid radio reported that an aircraft carrying Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez to the

PRC was forced to leave Iranian airspace after Tehran authorities warned that the military air defense had just prohibited air traffic in the zone. The prime minister's aircraft landed in Ankara before continuing its journey.

#### **Afghanistan**

Soviet and Afghan forces have suffered some 1,000 casualties during a major offensive to break a siege of the garrison at Khowst in Paktia Province, according to Western diplomatic sources cited by AFP. Meanwhile, Kabul radio reported that government forces crushed rebels in Khowst and several other regions of Paktia Province.